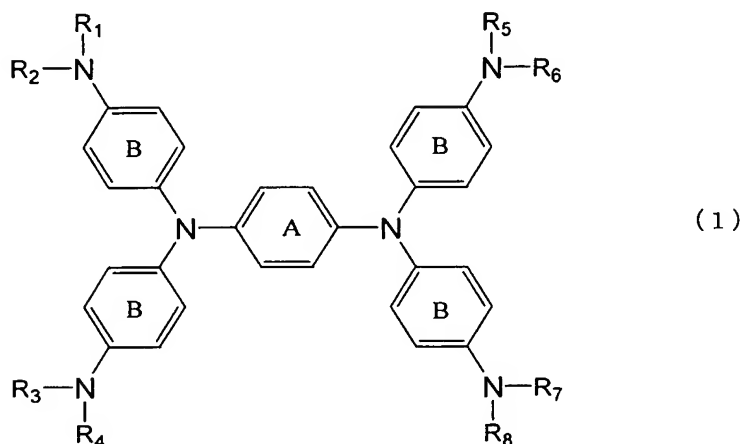


CLAIMS

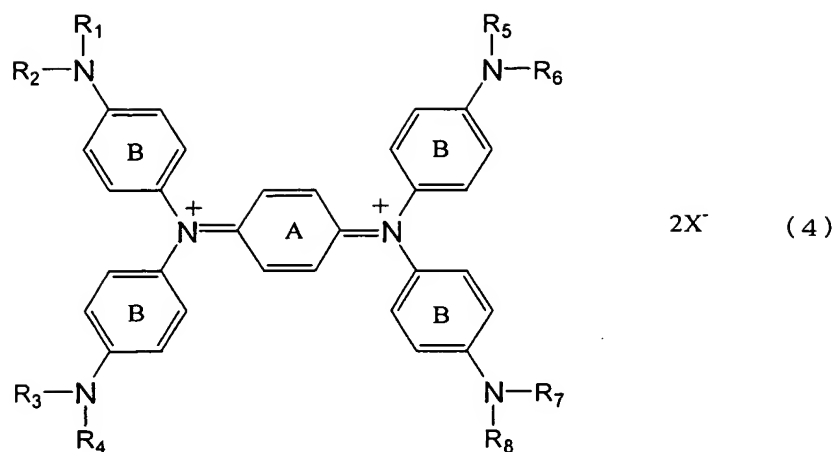
1. A near-infrared absorbing filter characterized by comprising a compound consisting of a salt of a cation obtained by oxidation of a substance of formula (1) below and an anion:



wherein rings A and B may have a substituent(s), and R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>8</sub> independently represent a substituted or unsubstituted (C1 to C8) alkyl group, cycloalkyl group, alkenyl group or aryl group;

said anion (X) being an alkylsulfonate ion having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, necessary for neutralization of said cation, which may be unsubstituted or substituted with a halogen atom, a lower alkoxy group, cyano group or hydroxyl group.

2. The near-infrared absorbing filter according to claim 1, wherein the compound consisting of a salt of a cation obtained by oxidation of a substance of formula (1) and an anion has a structure of formula (4) below:



3. The near-infrared absorbing filter according to claim 1 or 2, wherein rings A and B are unsubstituted except in the 1- and 4-positions, or each have 1 to 4 halogen atoms, lower alkyl groups, lower alkoxy groups, cyano groups or hydroxyl groups as substituents.

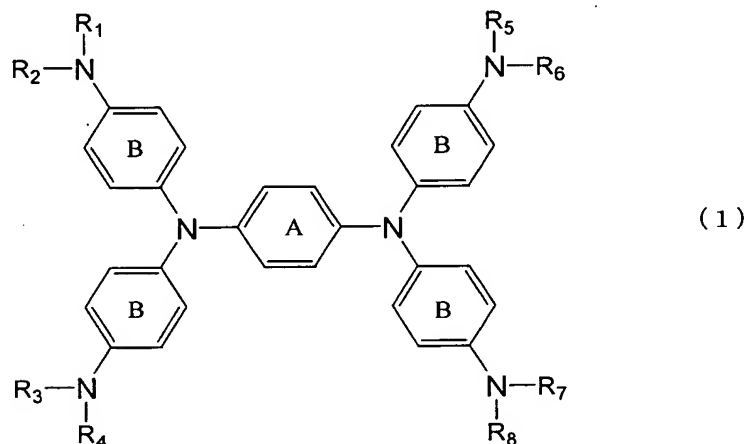
4. The near-infrared absorbing filter according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein X is an alkylsulfonic acid having 1 to 8 carbon atoms which is unsubstituted or substituted with a fluorine atom(s).

5. The near-infrared absorbing filter according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the filter is for use in a plasma display panel.

6. A near-infrared absorbing composition characterized by comprising, in a resin, a compound consisting of a salt of a cation obtained by oxidation of a substance of formula (1) and an anion, said anion being an alkylsulfonate ion having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, necessary for neutralization of the cation,

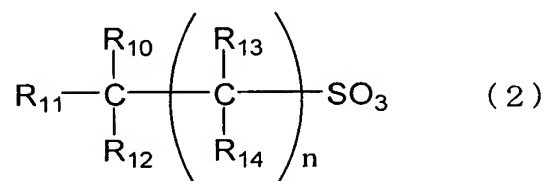
which may be unsubstituted or substituted with a halogen atom, a lower alkoxy group, cyano group or hydroxy group.

7. A near-infrared absorbing compound consisting of a salt of a cation obtained by oxidation of a substance of formula (1) below and an anion:



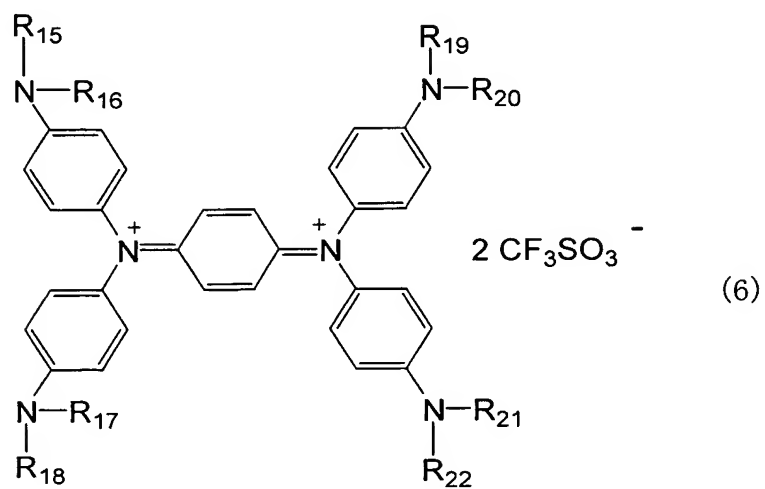
wherein rings A and B may have a substituent(s), and  $R_1$  to  $R_8$  independently represent a substituted or unsubstituted (C1 to C8) alkyl group, cycloalkyl group, alkenyl group or aryl group;

said anion being an alkylsulfonic acid, necessary for neutralization of the cation, represented by formula (2) below:



wherein  $R_{10}$  to  $R_{14}$  independently represent a hydrogen or halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, lower alkoxy group, cyano group or hydroxyl group, and  $n$  represents an integer of 1 to 7.

8. A near-infrared absorbing compound represented by formula (6) below:



wherein  $R_{15}$  to  $R_{22}$  independently represent a straight-chain or branched butyl or pentyl group.